

**Washington, DC** - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) introduced legislation today that will enhance security and expand explosives detection at airports. The *Protect the Lives of Americans Now through Enhanced Screening (PLANES) Act* will require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a full report on the use of explosives detection technologies for aviation security, and a plan to ensure the rapid deployment and enhanced use of the most effective technologies to keep American air passengers safe.

"As we saw from the attempted bombing of Northwest Flight 253 on Christmas Day, there is significant room for improvement in the use of explosives detection technologies for passenger screening, especially at foreign airports," Braley said. "I believe it's critical that we enhance our efforts to strengthen airport security while also ensuring we don't violate the rights of American citizens."

"I'm glad the Obama Administration has already taken some steps to immediately increase aviation security and I believe the measures in the *PLANES Act* will strengthen these efforts. These are important and effective measures we can employ to prevent further terrorist attacks on American air passengers."

The bill will strengthen aviation security by implementing the following measures:

· **Requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the use of explosives detection technologies**, including whole-body imaging technologies, explosive trace detection technologies, and canine explosives detection teams - including the effectiveness and privacy concerns and protections of the technologies - in aviation security.

· **Requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to report on the potential use of explosives trace detection technologies - such as swabbing - for passenger screening.**

While this technology is available at U.S. airports for screening carryon baggage, Braley is interested to know if it could also be used to effectively screen passengers for explosives, through swabbing a passenger's hand or shirt sleeve, for example.

· **Requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a plan to Congress to rapidly increase and enhance the use of explosives detection technologies for screening cargo, passenger baggage, and passengers for *all* domestic flights and international flights bound for the U.S.**

· **Requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a plan to ensure that explosives detection technologies are rapidly deployed and used in a way that ensures protection for international flights bound for the U.S. that is *at least* as strong**

**as for domestic flights.**

This provision is incredibly important because, even though the major aviation-related terrorist plots since 9/11 have focused on international flights, effective explosives trace detection technologies are not widely deployed or used at foreign airports.

· **Requiring that every U.S. commercial service airport has available at least one canine explosives detection team**, and that a sufficient number of canine explosives detection teams are deployed to ensure 100 percent screening of air cargo, as required by the *Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007*

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[Read the text of the bill here.](#)